

THE BANNER OF THE IRONSIDES.

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EDITOR.

THE BANNER OF THE IRONSIDES.

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Official.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. SURRENDER COMMISSION.
NEW ORLEANS, LA., FEB. 5, 1863.

The officers of the Government will induce the slaves to return to the Plantations where they belong with their families, and those returned will require them, and those remaining upon the Plantations to work diligently and faithfully on the Plantations for one year, to maintain a respectful deportment to their employers, and perfect subordination to their duties upon condition that the Planters or other employers will feed, clothe, and treat them as property, and give to them at the end of the year one twelfth (1-20) part of the year's crop or a third monthly compensation, in cases where it may be more convenient as follows:

Mechanics, Sugar Makers, Drivers, &c., Three Dollars per Annum.

Three Dollars per Annum.

Able bodied Field Men, Two Dollars each.

Able bodied Field Women, House Servants, Nurses, &c., One Dollar each.

The proportion reserved for the slaves, shall be divided into shares, and distributed according to the value of the labor, as follows:

Mechanics, Sugar Makers, Drivers, &c., Three Shares each.

Able bodied Field Men, Two Shares each.

Able bodied Field Women, House Servants, Nurses, &c., One Share each.

All not otherwise employed will be required to work upon the public works, and so persons capable of labor will be supported at the public expense in idleness.

F. G. DECKWITH,

Colonel, First Sargent's Commission.

The undersigned hereby accept the arrangement above proposed, and agree to carry it out on their part, for one year from the date thereof, it being distinctly understood that the crop of the year 1863, and the annual crop, and the acceptance of this contract does not imply the surrender of any right of property in the slave or other right of the owner.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Office of the Sargent's Commission, Feb. 6, 1863.

In accordance with the agreement between the Military authorities and the Planters, made upon General Order No. 12, January 23, 1863, the Provost Marshal of each parish is authorized to receive the signatures of Planters to said agreement, (above published) and is ordered to carry out to good faith the provisions of the agreement on the part of the authorities.

He will, in good faith, offer all free and legal inducements to the negroes within his district, in whatever condition or service they may be found, to return to their families and the plantations where they belong.

When any negro has acquiesced in the terms proposed, the Provost Marshal will see that he fulfill his engagements for one year, in good faith. He shall be required to remain upon the plantation to which he is bound, to work faithfully

and industriously, and maintain a respectful and a respectful deportment toward his employers.

The Provost Marshal is ordered to prohibit the harboring and employment of negroes looking upon plantations under this agreement, by either parties, either civil or military.

All negroes not complying in the proposed agreement, and otherwise employed, shall immediately be put to labor upon the public works, or sent to the military stations, without visible occupation or means of subsistence, shall be arrested as vagabonds, and put to labor upon the public works or the Quartermaster's plantations.

The Provost Marshal will also see that the agreement, entered into by the Planters in regard to the negroes is faithfully and fully carried out.

It is not expected that an individual contract will be made with the negroes who return to their plantations, or remain upon them. Such arrangement would be impracticable.

The fact that they return or remain is in itself a proof of their consent. The officers of the Government who advise and assist their return will feel that they are responsible that the advantages promised shall be secured to them.

By Order of the U. S. Secretary of Companies.

Approved: N. P. EAKES,

Major General Commanding.

Poetical.

(Written for The Banner of the Ironsides.)

LOUISIANA.

"With all the rage, the rage that stills"

BY EUGENE STEWART.

CO. A. 10th Regt., N. Y. V.

Where'er I wander to and fro,

Twist Arkansas and Mexico,

Among the cotton, rice and cane

That grow luxuriant on thy plain,

Ever there's ailing heart and brain,

Some now, and wild, and sweet refrain,

Louisiana.

Thy ever fragrant orange grove,

Thy blooming hedge and vine alcove;

Thy rascals guide with lute-like voices,

Who make all with themselves rejoice,

And counters soul-delighting joys

Reduce my thoughts to equinoxe,

Louisiana.

There's music in the very sound

Like sleigh-bells ringing in thy round,

There's poetry in the perfumed air,

So soft that lilies linger there,

And backs her in the warm sun's place;

I hear her singing—radiant, rare,

Louisiana.

Oh, sunny South! then make's me blind,

Thy crimson seas sweep my mind;

Hopitable, go far or near,

And every whither brings me cheer:

No peeping birds or fowls here,

Perpetual summer is thy year

Louisiana.

Reveries with two-fold pain the thought—

A thought on thy hands' brought;

Oh, emerald state! I know thou'lt err,

The Chief's displeasure is incurred;

Not who invade thee armed and depured,

Thy dear name love as when first heard

Louisiana.

I pray, oh, Prolong, that thou
May'st come with peaceful brow
Receive the ring that's offered thee
And fight not for false liberty;
Then with success shall thou and we
Resist each foreign enemy,
Louisiana.

MY DEARER BROTHER,

INES BY MISS JENNIE LAMBERT, TO HER BROTHER,
BY A DEVIANT BOY IN COMPANY D, 170th Regt., N. Y. V.

Dear brother, I bid you adieu, for now you are
off for the war.

Your Country has called on her sons to fight
in her glorious cause.

You are determined to heat on your drum, and
leave dear mother and me,

To tie away to the fight, and rescue the Flag
of the Free.

Dear brother, I bid you adieu, but ah! it is with
a sigh.

'Tis duty that's called you away, so now my
dear brother, good bye.

You could not remain at home, and see the
traitorous hand

Crush out the rights of the Free, in this your
own native land.

I pray that you may return to your home and
those that you love;

If not I hope I shall meet you in that fair
country of the Free.

The Sharp-shooter.

DUEL EXTRAORDINARY.

At an election in Garryhinch, some years since, one of the most curious duels took place that we ever heard of. A Mr. Frank Skelton—a boisterous, joking, fat, young fellow—was prevailed on, much against his will, to challenge the excise-man of the town, for running the butt end of a horsewhip down his throat the night before, while he lay drunk and sleeping with his mouth open.

The excise-man insisted that snoring at the dinner table was a personal offence to every gentleman in the company, and would therefore make no apology.

Frank, though he had been nearly choked, was reluctant to fight; he said he was sure to die if he did, as the excise-man could snuff a candle with his pistol ball; and he himself was as big as a hundred dozen canpans, what chance could he have?

We told him coolly to give the excise-man no time to take aim at him, by which means he might, perhaps, hit his adversary first, and thus survive the contest. He seemed somewhat encouraged and consoled by the hint, and most strictly did he adhere to it. Hundreds of the town's people went to see the fight on the green of Maryborough.

Continued on the fourth page.

The Negro Question.

Since the earliest formation of our Union, the proper solution of the negro question has been the great problem before the minds of all. The advocates of slavery maintained that the only course to be pursued, was to leave the negro as he was, doomed to perpetual servitude, while the ultra Abolitionists on the other hand, called for an immediate emancipation of the entire race. Every candidate for office, from the President of the United States to the school trustees of the smallest town, were compelled to make known their views upon this most important subject, and upon the emancipation of them, depended their election. This great question, which has thus agitated the minds of the people, has, however, appeared in a new light since the breaking out of the great Southern Rebellion. The man, who, to save their cherished institutions have turned against the mother who has nurtured them, and given them strength, have undoubtedly brought about its ultimate destruction. Wherever our army advances into the rebellious States, the slaves, by the Proclamation of the President, became unreservedly and forever free.

But there are certain districts in which slavery exists, which the Proclamation does not immediately affect. In such a one are we at present situated, and the question at once arises, how shall the slave, still owned by his master, and upon whose present labor depends the material salvation of this fruitful country, be treated by our army? This question has been answered by Gen. Banks, our wise and politic leader. An agreement has been entered into with the planters, by the terms of which their slaves are bound not to leave a term of one year, for which they (the slaves) receive a fixed monthly compensation. Under these circumstances, it is occasionally necessary to have soldiers stationed as guards on some of the plantations falling under this contract, to enforce the terms of it to be carried out; to compel the negroes to work properly, and to see that the planters keep them well fed and clothed, that they pay them fully at the proper time, and that they abstain from all cruelty in their treatment. These, are some of the duties of a provost guard.

It has been stated, however, that the slaves have been treated worse

by the plantation guards than by their masters. This is an unjust and false aspersion. There have, undoubtedly, been individual cases, where a soldier, for the sake of gain, has disgraced himself and his command, by brutal treatment of the slaves under his supervision; but as soon as such cases have been reported, the soldier has been relieved from his duties as plantation guard, and severely punished. For the benefit of some persons, who, taking advantage of isolated instances of this character, raise a hue and cry against the system, and against the company in which they occur, we copy a portion of a letter, written by General Banks to Governor Andrews, of Massachusetts, hoping that they will profit by the wholesome truths which it contains:

"I enclose in the papers of the North a report that certain regiments, or detachments, or soldiers of my command, have been ordered or permitted to return to their masters, against their will, to stand guard over, and to log the slaves in this department. It gives me pleasure to be able to say that it is without foundation or justification. In fact, in statement and in implication, it is utterly and infinitely false.

As it is made a reproach to Massachusetts, that such orders are given by one of her citizens, I desire to say to you, the Executive Magistrate of the State, having had many of her commissioned regiments under my command that I have certainly is said that I am a son of Massachusetts, and grateful at the remembrance may be to me and mine. I have yet greater satisfaction in the fact that no officer of the army of the United States has been instructed by the President, and the laws of the land: I have never permitted, or permitted or passed without the appropriate censure, an act inconsistent with my duty, with the spirit and principles of the people among whom I was born, or that justly interpreted, would not meet their approval without party distinctions. Our country has money so much, and has yet to encounter many natural trials—some greater than those encountered by wretched and wicked perversion of the truth. In the hands of strong men, the truth alone is an adequate remedy for all evils. It adds every crime, and supports all men. If the people of Massachusetts put for greater sacrifices of blood and treasure than they have made and yet must make, in the defence of their great cause, let them foster a noble spirit of wisdom and shameless veracity. It will open an abyss, deep enough and dark enough to swallow all the children that may spring from their loins for unnumbered generations."

In conclusion, we would call the attention of our readers to the beneficial results which are already being developed by the inauguration of this system. The plantations, from which not half the crop was obtained last year, are now in full working order, assisting to increase the resources of our government; the negroes, who were formerly supported by the government in idleness, are here, with a few exceptions, working willingly for the compensation offered them; and what, by far, exceeds all other considerations, the people are becoming more and more alienated from their former rebel friends, and more and more inclined to cling for support to the Union of their Fathers. Could this system be adopted in all

the departments situated similarly to our own, we think that its results would soon solve the negro question in all those portions of our country, where the blacks are still held as slaves.

ROSTER OF THE FIELD AND STAFF OF THE 176th REG'T N. Y. V.—Gen. G. Nott, Colonel; A. J. H. Daguerre, Lt. Colonel; Morgan Morgans Jr., Major, T. Henry Elwell, Adjutant, J. F. Kimball, Quartermaster, A. J. Willette, Surgeon, Troop, Assistant Surgeon.

Heavy cannonading was heard all day yesterday in the direction of our main body. The result we have been unable to ascertain. It is rumored that the rebels are retreating and destroying the bridges behind them.

Another rumor says that the rebels are surrounded and have no chance of escape and that quite a number of them have been captured.

CHANGES IN THE IRONSIDES REGIMENT.—Since leaving New York, the following changes have taken place among the Commissioned Officers of our Regiment:

Company F, Lieut. Fry, resigned on account of ill health; Company G, Capt. Bidwell, discharged, 1st Lt. E. A. Landers, detached on General Banks' Staff; Company H, 1st Lieut. Lawrence, died, 2nd Lieut. Greely, resigned on account of ill health; Company K, 2nd Lieut. Lyon, promoted to 1st Lieutenant, 2nd Lieut. R. Pitkin, resigned. The vacancies thus created will probably soon be filled from among the most deserving non-commissioned officers of the Regiment.

Company B of our Regiment have gone to Houma, as Provost Guard of that district. Capt. Cox, of that company, and the men under him are well qualified for the duties assigned them, and we believe will give satisfaction to both authorities and citizens.

We have made private John A. Haight, of Co. B, our agent at Houma, of whom the Banner of the Ironsides can be obtained every week. Also, at Tigerville, of Corporal Geo. W. Corley.

SINKING OF THE FERRY BOAT BELLEVILLE.—On Saturday afternoon, as the steamer Union was approaching her wharf at New Orleans, just below the Canal St. ferry, the ferry boat Belleville rang her bell, cast loose and rounded out into the river. The pilot of the Union used all the means in his power to avoid a collision, but in vain. The Belleville was

struck amidships, and in a sinking condition endeavored to reach the opposite shore; but as she neared her landing in Algiers, she sunk with all on board, and turned keel upwards. Two boats immediately put out from the shore and succeeded in rescuing twenty of the passengers. Two or three however were lost in spite of all efforts to save them. All the freight on board, including several military wagons with umbrellas attached were sunk. It is stated that the regular pilot was not on board, one of the deck hands being temporarily in his place.

News Summary.

The latest military intelligence from the West is not so favorable to the Union armies as we would wish it to be. Important movements are on foot, and either great successes or great disasters will be soon announced. The very latest news may be summed up as follows:

Admiral Farragut's fleet did not get past the batteries at Port Hudson, but Admiral Farragut in the steamship Hartford did get past, and at last accounts was below the Warrenton batteries ready to co-operate with Admiral Porter, who doubtless by this time has sent one or more iron-clad gunboats to his assistance. The Union Navy Department account of the passage of the Port Hudson batteries was wrong, and the original rebel account was substantially correct.

The Yazoo Pass expedition has come to a stop. Worse than that it has not only been held at bay, but beaten back. The rebels have disabled our iron-clads, and put an army of 10,000 men on the defensive. Reinforcements have by this time reached the Union expedition, and we hope soon to hear better news from that quarter, but so far things have not gone well.

Union gunboats and transports are reported to have reached the Yazoo river, above Haines' Bluff, by way of Cypress Swamp and the Deer and Sunflower rivers. This is good news, if true; but there is no confirmation of its truth, nor can there be for several days to come.

It seems to be well understood that as soon as the provost marshals are selected, and an enrollment secured, that a draft will be ordered in those States that have not filled their quota under the old allotment, for men enough to fill up deficiencies. This will put at least forty thousand men in the field, with prospects of a call ere June, for two or three hundred thousand additional.

The news from the North is of the most encouraging nature. Gold has declined to 140 and 141—a fall of thirteen cents since last advices. It is evident that the Government has the confidence of the people; we cannot refrain from expressing our hearty gratification at this healthy and unmistakable sign of the times.

On Tuesday last, the Hartford came down the Mississippi to a point a few miles above Port Hudson, at night, Mr. Osberton, secretary to Admiral Farragut, with a negro as quartermaster, embarked in a skiff, intending to communicate with the fleet below Port Hudson. They were successful, dropping down in the darkness of the night, and passing the batteries without detection. We now know the actual "situation" of the Hartford. In passing the batteries at Port Hudson, in going up, she was hit only five times, and lost but one man killed. In the subsequent Warrenton and Grand Gulf fights, four more men on board were killed. The Hartford is in excellent condition. The reports that the rain Lancaster was sunk by the Vicksburg batteries and that the Switzerland passed by in safety are fully confirmed.

A gentleman recently arrived from the neighborhood of Charleston, S. C.; says it is uncertain when an attack by our forces on any of the Southern Atlantic ports may be expected. Preparations were being made for a heavy demonstration at a point which it may not be prudent now to mention.

The news from Tennessee and Kentucky is really alarming. The rebels are flanking General Rosecrans as they did General Buell. They are in Kentucky in force and have captured Danville. We hear of more feeble fighting and cowardly surrenders in the Department of the Cumberland, and it is clear that Gen. Rosecrans must either soon fight a great battle or abandon Morfreesboro and Nashville.

The arrival of Gen. Burnside, with his Ninth army corps, at Cincinnati, from the East, is significant, and shows that our military authorities are seriously alarmed at the threatening state of affairs at the West especially in Kentucky. As General Burnside will be compelled to take the field immediately against the enemy, it is to be regretted that he was not sent some time since to his new department, so as to learn something of the country he was to operate in.

Hooker is about ready to move; and we all believe that when old fighting Joe starts, we'll have something done. Hunter is also about ready. God grant that Charleston may soon see the Stars and Stripes floating in triumph.

The following amusing dialogue took place between one of our carriers and an officer representing himself as a Provost Marshal:

- O. "Give me a paper."
- C. "Got any money?"
- O. "I'm Provost Marshal?"
- C. "I don't care if you are, I want the money."
- O. "But I'm a printer!"
- C. "Well, if you're a printer, go and print one then."

OFFICE OF PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
SPECIAL ORDERS | DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
No. 32, March 30, 1863.

The following regulations are prescribed for the Government of District Provost Marshals:

1. Provost Marshals are charged with the

- power, as far as possible, of their respective districts, and for this purpose shall be detailed to their respective districts by order of their respective districts.
2. It will be the duty of Provost Marshals to adopt and enforce regulations in the conduct of public order in taverns, markets and places of public resort.
3. To suppress all nuisances affecting the public health; all brothels and gambling houses.
4. To grant permits to legal citizens within their limits, under such regulations and for such time as may be prescribed by the Provost Marshal General of the Department.
5. To grant permits to lay out citizens of good character to travel within their respective districts; but the names of the persons to whom such permits shall be granted to be immediately reported to Colonel Dismont, Provost Marshal General of Louisiana.
6. To arrest and hold in custody all persons attempting to pass the lines or read supplies to the enemy, and to report such arrests immediately to the Provost Marshal General.
7. To take charge of all deserters, passers of war and other persons coming within the lines, and all such persons are to be taken without delay to the Headquarters of the nearest Division, or other proper military authority, to be examined by him, and to be forwarded, if necessary, to General Headquarters. Except as herein provided, no one must be permitted to converse with them until they are remanded to the custody of the Provost Marshal.
8. To make searches, seizures and arrests of persons and property on justifiable grounds or on proper military authority, but all seizures and arrests must be reported forthwith to Col. Dismont, Provost Marshal General of Louisiana, with the reasons or authority on which such arrests or seizures were made.
9. To enforce strictness in respect to the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.
10. No passes for persons or merchandise within the military lines are to be received unless signed by a Provost Marshal or Military Commandant, nor any from persons beyond the lines unless signed by the Commanding General or Provost Marshal General of the Department.
11. All passes for vessels within the lines will be signed by Colonel Dismont, Provost Marshal of Louisiana, and all vessels going beyond the lines will be signed by the Commanding General except vessels engaged in fishing, which will be signed by the Provost Marshal General of the Department.
12. All horses, mules, oxen, ploughs and other agricultural implements are to be restored on the application of their respective owners, to the end that the cultivation of the land may not be hindered.
13. Provost Marshals and others capturing vessels, goods or supplies, intended without proper authority for the use of the enemy, or for consumption beyond the lines of the army of this Department, will be entitled to receive according to the service rendered in such capture, one-half of the net proceeds of the sale of the vessels, goods or supplies so captured, and forfeited to the United States.
14. All vessels and merchandise, so forfeited with an inventory thereof, will be turned over to Colonel Dismont, Provost Marshal General of Louisiana, to be sold at public auction under his direction, and one-half of the net proceeds of such sales will be by him distributed among the captors of such forfeited goods, and the remainder paid in to the Chief Quartermaster.
15. In conformity with General Order No. 12, Provost Marshals will abstain from giving any encouragement or aid to slaves to abandon the service of their masters, nor will they compel by force or threat, fugitive slaves to return to their masters. But while Provost Marshals will unceremoniously avoid interfering in any manner with the relation of master and slave, they will employ all vigorous measures in their respective districts in requiring the owners, masters and other public works, and they will exempt from the above-mentioned performance of a full day's work every day except Sunday.
16. The refractory and indolent will be compelled to work by such slight punishments as may be effective, but no corporal punishment will be permitted. If slaves, under the orders of the Provost Marshals, shall elect to return to their masters, rather than be employed on the public works, such facilities are to be granted as may be reasonable for that purpose.
17. Provost Marshals will make detailed reports to Colonel Dismont, Provost Marshal of Louisiana, on the first of each month, setting forth the number of passes granted, mules received and expended during the preceding month, and for what purpose, and the balance on hand.

JAMES BOWEN,
Brigadier General, Provost Marshal,
Department of the Gulf.

Always on hand!